Pak deal to acquire polish tanks

1246. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has finalised a deal for purchasing, 300 T-72 Tanks from Poland and fighter aircrafts from Russia to strengthen its defence forces;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to. take to strengthen the arms capability of the country in view of this development in Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) Govemment constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on the country's security, and take necessary measures to safeguard it. The country's defence capabilities are upgraded on a continuing basis, in the light of threat perceptions and other relevant factors. No other details in the matter can be divulged in the national security interest.

हिन्द महासागर में चीनी नौसैनिक अड्डा

1247. श्री चीरेन जे. शाह : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन का 1998 तक हिन्द महासागर में तीन बड़े नौसैनिक अड्डे स्थापित करने का विचार है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि चीन पिछले कुछ वर्षों से हिन्द महासागर में नौसैनिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा दे रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी क्या है;

(घ) क्या चीन की इन गतिविधियों से हमारे देश की सुरक्षा को खतरा उत्पन्न होने की संभावना है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) से (ग) सरकार के पास इस आशय की कोई ठोस सूचना नहीं है ।

(घ) और (ङ) सरकार हमारी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाली सभी गतिविधियों पर लगातार नजर रखती है और रक्षा तैयारी को सुनिश्चित करने से संबंधित सभी समुचित उपाय करती है ।

Promotion of electronic units in M. P., Orissa and Bihar

1248. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDKV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Electronics Industries have not made much progress in the States like M. P., Orissa and Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken or the schemes drawn up by Government to promote electronic units during the Eighth Five Year Plan in these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM") : (a) The production of electronics in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar during the last two years is as follows :—

	1990	1991
	(Rs. in Crores)	
Name of the State		
Madhya Pradesh	98.19	150·85
Orissa	43.24	32.90
Bihar	19.71	18.2)

(b) The Qovenssieat of India encourages the setting up of electronic industries , throughout the country in all relevant sectors of electronics. The concerned State Government or agencies like the State Electronics Development Corporation (SE-DCs) provide some facilities and promotional incentives for setting up of specific industrial units in the State. The Department of Electronics gives necessary guidance and approvals/licences etc. The Software Technology Park scheme and the Electronic Hardware Technology Park scheme have been specially designed to encourage the growth of software and hardware sector of Electronics. The Department of Electronics also provides some assistance for projects in areas such as manpower development, quality control, testing & standardisation R&D in electronics etc.

The infrastructure facilities created/ supported by the Department of Electronics in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar are given below :—

MADHYA PRADESH

— Electronics Tost and Development Centre (ETDC), Indore.

— Microprocessor Application Engi neering Programme (MAEP) centre, Jabalpur.

ORISSA

— Electronics Test and Development Centre (ETDC), Bhubaneshwar.

— VLSI Design Centre. Bhubaneshwar.

— Software Technology Park (STP), Bhubaneshwar.

BIHAR

— Electronics Test and Development
— Centre (ETDC), Patna.

— Appropriate Automation Promotion Programme (AAPP) Centre, Ranchi.

The measures taken/initiated by the Government of India, to give boost to the production and export of electronic products are given in the statement.

Statement

Measures taken/initiated by the Government to give boost to the production and export of electronics products.

1. General policy and procedural measures :

Licensing :

(a) The entire electronics industry has been exempted from the locational limitations imposed on other industries.

(b) Licensing has been abolished for all industrial undertakings including companies covered under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) and Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) except the sub-sectors of consumer electronics and strategic electronics.

(c) The system of phased manufacturing programme (PMP) run on case by basis and has been abolished.

(d) Development of small scale industry is being encouraged. Approvals/registrations have been totally decentralised to the level of State Directorates of Industries. Investment limit for this sector has been revised upwards to Rs. 60 lakhs and that for ancillary units, to Rs. 75 lakhs.

(e) Existing units are permitted to manufacture any article without additional investment under broad-banding subject to certain conditions.

(f) Amendment to the MRTP Act has removed the threshold limit of assets in respect of MRTP companies.

Foreign Collaboration :

(a) Foreign Investment—Automatic approval is accorded for direct foreign investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries.

(b) Foreign Technology—Automatic permission is given for foreign technology agreements in high priority industries with certain ceiling on payments.

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

Automatic approvals to Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCB)

predominently owned by NRIs for direct foreign investment upto 100% of the equity with full benefits of repatriation in high priority industries.

Import and Export Policies :

(a) Access to foreign exchange for the import of capital goods, parts and components required has been provided freely through the system of partial convertibility introduced in the Budget 1992-93.

(b) Tools, Dies, moulds are available under OGL at concessional rate of customs duty.

(c) The import policy is being rationa lised with a view to increasing produc tion-

Fiscal Policies :

(a) Excise duty has been reduced on the goods permitted to be sold in the domes tic tariff area under the Export Processing Zones (EPZ) schemes.

(b) For component industry, the import duty on raw materials, piece parts etc. has been rationalised.

(c) Customs duty on component parts required in the manufacture of C. G., com-puters, telecommunications equipment etc. has been rationalised and brought down to a level of 50% (Basic & Auxiliary).

Electronic Hardware Technology Parks :

Government has announced the Electronic Hardware Technology Parks Scheme to attract major international electronic companies to establish global scale manufacturing facilities incorporating the latest technology. This will also help Indian enterprises to attain global scales of operations and thereby enhance their product and process quality and international competitiveness.

Velocity of Business :

Action has been initiated for improving the Velocity of Business in the Electronics Industry. It aims at removing procedural bottlenecks pertaining to licensing, customs, infrastructure etc. to speed up the deve-lopment of Electronics industry.

II. Policy initiatives in specific areas

1. Computer Software

J. (a) Exemption has been granted under Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act on income from export of Software.

(b) To encourage software exports, Software Technology Parks (STPs) as 100% Export Oriented Units have been set up in various parts of the country.

(c) A value added data communication network is being set up to facilitate export of software to all parts of the world initial ly from Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore.

Computer Hardware

Programmes have been initiated for building institutional infrastructure for training scientific manpower and undertaking R&D to solve some of the industrial problems using computer technology.

III. *Infrastructure and other facilities*

Applications of Electronics

(a) Government is promoting appropriate applications of electronics to improve productivity. Quality and safety.

(b) Retrofitting in industries in areas like Cement, Tea, Paper & Pulp, Sugar, Textile and Power Sector with process instrumentation technology developed under funding by the Department of Electronics is being encouraged to increase the productivity, efficiency-reliability, energy conservation etc.

(c) I or developing awareness of qualify, a network of standardisation, testing and quality control laboratories have "been set up. Some of these laboratories are autho rised to test and certify for international and national quality standards. This must help in the export of electronic products.

id) Steps are being taken to promote the use of information technology in Government Department .and services.

Ictlmolopy Development and R&D

(a) Various projects have been initiated by the Technology Development Council,

National Radar Council National Micro-electronics Council and Electronic Materials Development Council with a view to promote innovation product design and development and technology development which are all basic for the growth of a healthy electronics industry.

(b) Various research centres and laboratories such as the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research, National Centre for Software Technology Centre for Development of Telematics, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing Technology, Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology for Development of Material and several Electronics Research and Development Centres have been set up to carry out R&D in well identified areas which is also a measure for developing self-reliant industrial base.

Export Promotion

(a) Government sponsor and facilitate various export marketing activities including visits of business delegation and participation in the Exhibition.

(b) Seminars/Workshops have been held to create awareness about the capabilities of Indian Electronics Industry in West Europe, USA etc.

(c) Action has been initiated to set up Software Engineering Centre to enable Indian Software Industry *to* acquaint themselves with the latest technologies for software development.

Promotion of Software production in the country

1249. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote software production in view of the fact that in software production, lndia is in the forefront in the world;

(b) what facilities have been provided by Government to disseminate information regarding Marketing avenues abroad to new comers in the field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The following steps have been taken toy the Government of India, Department of Electronics to strengthen and promote domestic software industry :—

(i) All the major Government users have been advised to advertise tenders separately for computer hardware and software, as software has separate identity.

(ii) All the major Government users have been advised that while floating tender documents for computer systems tender documents should only give specifications of the software packages and not the specific brand names.

(iii) All the major Government users have been advised that Indian Software Companies should as far as possible, be involved in the Software Development.

(iv) As Software piracy is one major inhibiting factor to Software Development, the Department of Electronics has taken various steps to curb software piracy.

The steps taken by the Government of India to boost Software exports are given in the Statement (See below).

(to) (i) The Department of Electronics with the assistance of World Bank got a study conducted to identify niche markets for Software and *to* identify strategies to address these markets. The findings of this study have been given wide circulation through the seminars. This report has also been made available to the industry.

(ii) General information regarding the software industry is also available through the offices of the Department of Electronics and Software Technology Park of India..